

# INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Boleslaw Bierut is the only Polish politician who has become more popular recently. Jakub Berman's position, which had been weakened after three of his dependents emigrated to Palestine or the U.S.A., grew stronger. There are rumors that Bierut saved this political advisor who is both indispensable and harmless. Only rarely did Vice Prime Minister Alexander Zawadzki appear in public and, whenever he was seen, he looked quite ill as he suffers from a pulmonary disease. Proletarian figures such as Edward Ochab, who were recently given a more prominent position, seemed self-conscious in public and are considered only mere tools. There was considerable gossip in Warsaw regarding the fact that Wladyslaw Gombulka and General Spychalski and Zenon Kliszko, his friends, were not put on trial. They possibly were sentenced behind closed doors in a secret trial and held available to incriminate other Polish politicians.
2. The Poles are alarmed about the possibility of war. Official Government speakers use every occasion to accuse the West of aggression. The Polish population believes that the living conditions in Poland are almost intolerable and suggestive of a catastrophe. There is an indescribable nervousness resulting from malnutrition, overtime work and social insecurity which affects plain people as well as prominent personalities, although there are exceptions.
3. Aliens live an isolated life in Warsaw. They are avoided by the Poles. Foreign Minister Stanislaw Skrzyszewski recently requested the wife of a diplomat from the West through an intermediary not to blame him for confining himself to a few words with her during a reception, since conversation might be misunderstood.

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4. Numerous buildings are under construction in Poland, especially in Warsaw. The food situation is growing worse. There are rumors that the production of canned goods has notably increased. They were either exported or hoarded. The quantity as well as quality of the food supply of the Polish population are insufficient; butter, for example, is being mixed with varnish and water. The population is bitter over this situation. Even the most modestly dressed alien conspicuously stands out against the indigenous population. This had not been the rule two years ago.
  5. The BBC is the most monitored foreign radio station. Its broadcasts are considered informative although they are often jammed. The Voice of America is rejected by the Poles because of excessive propaganda. Although monitored occasionally, the Voice of America is usually considered unreliable and tactless. Radio Free Europe apparently remained almost completely unknown.

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